A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the administration reports of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board published each year. Information regarding the number of temples and maths whose accounts were audited is available in these reports.

(b) The official year for the Hindu Religious Endowments Board is the fasli year. A statement[a] is appended showing the number and names of the persons who were appointed to audit the accounts of the temples and maths for the several years. The Government have no information regarding the number of audits given by the Board to each of these auditors.

Provincial Finance

Posts carrying a higher maximum under the revised scale of pay.

* 818 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the nature and number of posts for which in the revised scales of pay a higher maximum than what was obtaining in the old scales of pay has been fixed;

(b) the reason for fixing such a higher maximum; and

(c) whether it was the intention of the Government in fixing such a higher maximum that the present incumbents should be given the benefit thereof?

A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to the Government Orders No. 311, Public (Services), dated 13th April 1933, No. 511, Public (Services), dated 16th June 1933, No. 814, Public (Services), dated 4th October 1933 and No. 957, Public (Services), dated 17th November 1933, which have been placed at the disposal of the press or published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

(b) A higher maximum has been fixed in individual cases to secure one or the other of the following objects with reference to future entrants to services:—

(1) To recruit better qualified candidates;

(2) to avoid a block in promotion which may arise on occasions due to the smallness of the cadre;

(3) to secure uniformity in the pay scales of identical posts in different departments;

(4) to adopt the standard time-scale pays in lieu of the fixed rates of pay previously in force;

(5) to replace a number of time-scales or fixed rates of pay, by a common time-scale for the whole service, providing for a complete career for the average future incumbent;

[a] Printed as Appendix on pages 666–667 infra.

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(6) to serve as a partial compensation for the abolition of selection grade posts and to ensure adequate prospects of promotion.

(c) The point is under consideration of Government.

Land Revenue Administration

Recommendation of the Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee for standardization of the assessment on ryotwari land.

* 819 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the action, if any, taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee to standardize the assessment on ryotwari land at a comparatively low figure not exceeding 25 per cent of the annual value and if no action has yet been taken, why not?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 792.

Proposal of the Collector of Anantapur for the suspension of land revenue in Hindupur and Madakasira.

* 820 *Q.*—Mr. G. Lakshmana Reddi: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Collector of Anantapur recommended for the current fasli the suspension of land revenue to the extent of 50 per cent owing to poor outturn of crop in Hindupur taluk and in Madakasira firka of Madakasira taluk in the district of Anantapur; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have passed any, and what orders?

A.—(a) Yes, in respect of dry assessment.

(b) The Board of Revenue has negatived the Collector's proposals.

Mr. G. Lakshmana Reddi:—" May I know, Sir, on what basis the Board of Revenue negatived the Collector's proposals? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" The Board were not satisfied that there was a case for suspension of land revenue, as the extent under cultivation was 97 per cent of the average area cultivated during the last five faslis, as the rainfall this year has been above the normal and as the outturns as reported by the Collector were wrongly calculated. He had made the average outturn lower by counting in all land left fallow, though it is the district practice to leave land fallow in some years. In view of these facts, the Board could not accept the recommendations of the Collector as they were based on incorrect facts and deductions."

Mr. G. Lakshmana Reddi:—" May I know when the Board received the Collector's proposals? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" I must ask for notice."